

**MINUTES OF THE  
CALUMET COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION  
July 22, 2019 (9:00 A.M.)**

Dave LaShay called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

1. The Meeting was properly announced and posted, and a quorum of members was present.

**2. ROLL CALL (Committee Member Attendance):**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave LaShay, Bill Grube, and CVSO Greg Brittnacher

ABSENT: Joe Mueller

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michelle Wynveen, Daniel De Troye, VFW 3153, and DAV Chapter 65; Richard Schmidt, VFW 3153; Eugene Wall (via Webex)

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**4. Election of Officers:**

A. Chairperson – G. Brittnacher nominated D. LaShay, which was seconded by B. Grube. There were no other nominations. A unanimous voice vote was taken.

B. Vice Chairperson – D. LaShay nominated B. Grube, which was seconded by G. Brittnacher. There were no other nominations. A unanimous voice vote was taken.

C. Secretary – D. LaShay nominated J. Mueller, which was seconded by B. Grube. There were no other nominations. A unanimous voice vote was taken.

D. Recording Secretary – Chairperson LaShay appointed Michelle Wynveen.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by G. Brittnacher and SECONDED by Bill Grube to approve the agenda for July 22, 2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (November 20, 2019 meeting)**



MOTION by G. Brittnacher and SECONDED by D. LaShay to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2019 meeting. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None**

**8. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT – Given by CVSO G. Brittnacher:**

- A. Introduction by Michelle Wynveen - Background information and work experience for the Administrative Assistant.
- B. Iron Mountain Scanning Project: Provided update that project is completed and all veteran documents (DD214 & VA claims File) are digitalized. CVSO and Assistant continue the process of uploading to personal profile of Calumet County Veterans.
- C. Office Updates: Transitioned from Vetraspec to VetPro to better serve our veterans in the claims process. As of July 22, 2020, Compensation and Pension totals for Calumet County Veterans Service Office are the following: Retroactive benefit totals = \$556, 161.04 and Compensation and Pension totals = \$6,388,005.72. This total is higher than the VA GDX report of \$5.5 million. The reasoning being is the VA goes off of zip codes and doesn't include 54915, 54952 and 53042 that fall under Calumet County.
- D. VA Health Care and Compensation Exams updates: New 72 hour reporting number for ER visits (844-724-7842). Instructions on how to get reimbursed prescription drug cost due to ER visit. Provided new VA approved Urgent Care Facilities through Ascension Medical Group. VA has begun rescheduling Compensation and Pension exams for veterans. They are primarily being handled by LHI, QTC, and VES contractors.
- E. VA Updates: Ensure veterans continue to advocate for our fellow veterans and make sure our "Blue Water Navy" Vietnam Veterans are aware of the new legislation that makes them eligible for compensation due to presumptive conditions resulting from their exposure to Agent Orange. CVSO is continuing to get more guidance on Court ruling on billing issues for veterans receiving non-VA care and having other health insurance (OHI).

**9. REPORTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS – None**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**11. ITEMS FOR ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

- A. Quarterly VSC Meetings: Newly elected officials agree to continue with the Quarterly meetings.
- B. Bronze Flag Holders for Cemeteries: Feedback from Dan De Troye, VFW 3153 and DAV Chapter 65 that he would preview aluminum over the bronze for the fact that they are easier to handle, provide maintenance and cost is less to replace. He did request that Greg Brittnacher to look for a different vendor that will provide better quality product.
- C. Discuss aid to needy veterans: Greg Brittnacher discussed the needs requests from veterans in the house repairs (roof replacement, new flooring, and cabinets). The veterans making the request are in financial need. CVSO will look in to potential grant opportunities, but in the immediate future Dan De Troye, VFW 3153 stated the post would be willing to provide funds to these veterans in need and

suggested the CVSO look at the other Post to do the same.

**11. DISCUSS NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting has tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9: 59 A.M., MOTION by B. Grube and SECONDED by G. Brittnacher to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Greg Brittnacher, VSC Committee member & Recording Secretary  
APPROVED